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Thus Far Cotton Crop is Very Promising.

The preponderance of evidence denotes that the week was a favorable one to the cotton crop. Rains were quite general, and, except in a few localities, extremely beneficial. In many sections they came most opportunely, namely, in West Tennessee and Northern and Western Alabama, preventing a setback threatened there by reason of absence of rain for a considerable period. The only sections from which complaint comes of excessive rainfall are some bottom lands in Mississippi and Arkansas, where the fall was in excess of that generally prevailing over any considerable district. Correspondents state that sunshine following what has been a wet and cloudy week will impart great life and vigor to the growth. In most sections light showers in the early week, followed by a heavy general rain at the week's close, furnished the moisture.

So far there is scarcely any complaint regarding the lack of cultivation and the generally clean state of the crop, which has been one of the season's leading characteristics, with a few local exceptions, is notably well maintained. Complaints of scarcity of labor have disappeared now as the cultivation is nearing completion. In many sections another week will witness the final working out of the cotton. The prospective yield is often spoken of, however as threatening a scarcity of labor in the picking season.

A Fulton County farmer tells us that the bolls are becoming numerous, and in some earlier fields have attained good size. The cotton plant is fruiting well and the stalk has to date not made a very rapid growth, being still a little undersized, but very healthy and free from insect or rust damage.

Mississippi River Water to Christen Duchess' Son.

Vicksburg, Miss., July 17.—A jug of Mississippi river water, sealed and attested by a justice of the peace to prove that it was the genuine article, is on the ocean bound for the London home of the duke and duchess of Manchester, where it will be used in christening the baby boy left there by the stork a few days ago.

Why Mississippi river water should be specially required for the ceremony is not definitely known, but it is believed to be due to the wish of the dowager duchess, who was a Miss Yznaga. Her family home was at Ravenswood, La., and it is presumed that a sentimental affection for the great father of waters led to a desire that her newest grandson be christened with a few drops from the mighty river itself. The young duke of Manchester, father of the babe, and his wife, who was Miss Zimmerman, of Cincinnati, have visited the Yznaga home at Ravenswood and he has had a deep affection for the birthplace of his mother.

A well posted citizen of Hickman tells the Courier that our city is sending \$20,000 a year away from home by not operating a flouring mill in this city. This sounds reasonable, and is an item that is well worth consideration by the Commercial Club.

Words of praise reach our ears, in regard to the last issue of the Courier. We appreciate every kind word said, for our best efforts are united to give the public a clean, newsy paper, one that you would be proud to name as the representative of Fulton county. The good work will continue.

Miss Mabel Wilson spent several days last week with Wingo friends.

City Department Store vs. Home Merchant.

One of the many growing evils of the country to-day is the city department store. In our town, where we have the best of stores, the most honorable of merchants, and where goods are sold at a margin so small as not to afford a respectable living to our business men, thousands of dollars are annually sent to the department stores of our great cities. Farmers expect our merchants to pay them a fancy price for butter, eggs and poultry, for their pumpkins, potatoes, apples, and tomatoes, and then they take the money received from our home merchants and send it to a city department store. There is neither economy nor honor in such a manner of doing business. You can write it down in your hat, that as a rule, the city department store is a swindle.

Our citizens who patronize them should be compelled to ship their butter and eggs to them. There is not a business man in our town who will not duplicate their prices for the same quality of goods, and he who turns down his home merchants to patronize these fakirs is far from being a loyal, patriotic and good citizen.

Long Journey of Miss Naifeh to Join Brothers.

After many thousands of miles of travel by water and rail, Miss Rosy Naifeh joins her brothers Messrs. Naifeh, prominent merchants of this city. Miss Naifeh left her home Judiedit Margeon, Syria, thirty days ago, traveling by rail to a small sea-board town on the Mediterranean Sea, and from that point crossed by steamer to the southern coast of France; here the young lady returned to the small and inconsiderable trains of Europe, and crossed the entire country of France; from France she took a steamer and began the long voyage to the United States.

Miss Naifeh gazed upon "the states" for the first time, from the entrance to the New York Harbor, with the "Goddess of Liberty" welcoming her, as she has all strangers since the union of the states.

It only took a few days travel to reach her new home in Kentucky, after boarding one of the splendidly equipped coaches of our own railroads, which she thinks incomparable to any elsewhere. Miss Naifeh expresses herself pleased with this country, and especially the land of the blue grass.

Several weeks ago it was reported that Mrs. Harris Parten, whose husband was killed in Union City by coming in contact with an electric wire, would sue the city for \$25,000. The papers have now been served, but instead of \$25,000, the amount asked for is \$50,000.

Miss Jessie Lee Reeves, a talented young lady from Fulton, among several others, took the county examination of teachers and delighted her many friends by being credited with the highest class work of any other contestant this year. She was given a four years certificate. Miss Reeves is the guest of Mr. and W. A. Naylor, and intends remaining in the city several days. Upon her return home Misses Mayme and Ethel Naylor will accompany her.

C. G. Schlenker leaves next week for a visit to his old home at Eaton, Ohio, where he will be joined by his wife and continue an extended trip through the East. Mr. Lee Schlenker with whom many here are well and favorably acquainted, will conduct the business in the absence of his brother.

Mrs. Bettie Herring, of Union City was the guest of her daughter, Mrs. T. T. Swayne this week.

Henderson Place of Annual Encampment

Adj. Gen. Henry R. Lawrence has announced the selection of Henderson as the place for the annual encampment of the Kentucky State Guard and that the encampment will open on August 13 and continue until September 7. The First, or Louisville regiment, will be the first to go into camp. The companies of the regiment will reach the camp on the morning of August 13 and will remain until August 20, when they will depart for home. The companies of the Third regiment will go into camp on August 22 and continue in camp until August 29. The Second regiment will reach the camp on August 31 and remain until the close of the camp, September 7. The Signal Corps, of Frankfort will go into camp on August 13 and remain there until the end of the camp. Adj. Gen. Lawrence and Assistant Adj. Gen. Parrent will be at the camp in charge of general headquarters during the encampment.

Labor Becoming Scarce in The South.

John L. McLaurin, of South Carolina, who, since his retirement from the Senate, has devoted himself energetically to the industrial development of his State and of the South, in an interview at Washington says:

"The South is suffering from a scarcity of labor that is more noticeable this year than ever before. On my plantation in South Carolina, for the first time within my memory, some of my negro cabins are empty. The negroes are leaving the farms and are going elsewhere. Thousands have gone to the North to become hotel waiters and porters and servants generally. Many thousands more have been drawn away by the great era of railroad buildings in different parts of the country. Other thousands have taken places as hands in manufacturing in cities and towns. What is left is not of so good a quality as we had in the generation just passed. In slave times the negro was compelled to keep regular hours and take care of himself, and thus he was a valuable chattel. Now the young negro gets into all sorts of dissipation, which seriously impairs his usefulness. The result is it is next to impossible to get sufficient capable labor on the farms of the South.

"What will be the result? In my judgment, our planters will have to turn to Italian labor. The negro has proved a political failure, and now he is demonstrating an industrial failure. New and better labor will replace him at the plantations. What is to become of him I don't know."

Senator McCreary and His Friends Enthusiastic.

Senator James B. McCreary and his friends are highly pleased over the result of the conference held at Louisville last week in the interest of the re-election of Mr. McCreary for Senator. Those present went away feeling that the Senator's chances were benefited by the meeting. Active work will now begin all over the State in the interest of the Senator. Committees were appointed to take the work in hand. Headquarters will soon be opened in Louisville. The meeting was more largely attended than was expected by Senator McCreary's warmest supporters. Every congressional district was represented.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Durham, of Ripley, returned Sunday to their Tennessee home, after spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Durham.

Messrs. Barrett and Green Lead in Friday's Shoot.

The regular members of the local gun club met Friday afternoon to engage in their weekly shooting tournament. Nineteen members participated and the scores averaged far above those of any former contest.

Harry Barrett and Ira Green scored the highest points, both tying with 20 pigeons. Chas. Perry stood third, breaking 15. The other shooters ranged from 5 to 15 birds.

Interest has not abated in this sport, and in a short time medals will be given the best marksman in each tournament. The club has purchased two new traps and 1500 clay pigeons, so no contest will be postponed for lack of accoutrement.

Roosevelt Only Chance of Republican Party.

W. Bourke Cochran, of New York, Democratic Congressman and orator, said of the political situation:

"In my opinion Mr. Roosevelt is the only choice for the Republican party to consider, and I believe the President will be forced to accept the nomination. Likewise I think that Mr. Bryan is at this time the unanimous choice of the Democratic party for presidential candidate. I would not be surprised to see some vigorous Democrat step from the New York governorship to the White House.

Young Lady Makes Successful Base Ball Umpire.

Miss Amanda Clement, a student at Yankton College, of Hudson, S. D., is probably the only woman baseball umpire in the country. She is 17 years old, handsome and healthy and fills the onerous position of arbiter on the diamond with a grace and dignity that renders her decisions satisfactory to all contestants. Her sight is of the keenest, her knowledge of the game is thorough and she has an intimate acquaintance with all the fine points and "inside plays." Miss Clement's services are equally sought by amateurs and professionals and she has received urgent calls, both by wire and letter, to hold the "indicator" at baseball contests. Miss Clement, however, continues her studies at the college and is not at all disturbed by the peculiar fame that she has acquired. She receives pay and expenses for her work on the diamond, and could make an excellent living by umpiring, but has decided not to abandon her books.

With the money she has already earned she will be able to continue in school for a longer period than she had anticipated. Miss Clement's home is in Hudson. She received her knowledge of baseball through her brother who is a professional player. She first started umpiring for fun, but her work at once challenged recognition, and she became a prime favorite. When she appears on the field she wears a natty blue suit and a short blouse, her wreath of hair being tucked up beneath a captivating cap. No hesitation marks her rulings, and when plays are made at the bases she is "right over them."

Messrs. Alex Stone and Will Helm are contemplating a summer vacation in the hills of sunny Tennessee. Mr. Helm will visit in Paris, Tenn., and Mr. Stone will spend a few days at his old home, also take a trip up the Green river.

A cliff was washed down on the I. C. R. R. tracks at Fox Bluff, Tenn., and but for the watchfulness of the track walker a series of wrecks might have occurred. The track was covered for a distance of 400 feet beneath four feet of soil and rock.

An Opportunity for Men of Military Experience.

Under the supervision of Capt. Henry W. Carpenter of the United States Marine Corps, the Jamestown Exposition is organizing a military force to be known as the Powhatan Guard, for the purpose of policing the grounds and of keeping the peace and order of the entire Exposition.

A limited number of these blanks are being sent to the various Military Institutions of the State in the hope of securing the services of some of the students, whose military experience makes them desirable to fill the ranks of this organization. The entire command of the guard is in the hands of Capt. Carpenter who intends to carry on the work under the strictest Military discipline.

In the enrollment of the guards men of military experience who have served either in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, State Militia or Military Colleges, will be given first consideration.

Capt. Carpenter who has been detailed by the Navy Department to command the Exposition Guards has established his headquarters at the Atlantic Hotel in Norfolk, Va. His career has been a very interesting one and owing to the wide experience he has had in the public reception of foreign guests he is perhaps the most efficient officer that could have been detailed for the position.

The guard will be organized as a battalion of probably four companies one of which is to be mounted. Each company will be organized and commanded as are the United States troops. The uniforms are to be of a simple, yet impressive design, consisting of a gray blouse and trousers of a military cut and the regulation Army Campaign hat. The mounted guards are to have the same uniform with the addition of riding breeches and black strap leggins. A white sun helmet and uniform of cotton duck will also be provided for hot weather.

Capt. Carpenter has formulated the following conditions of enrollment in the guard: Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 40, of not less than 5 feet and 8 inches in height and must have served either in the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, U. S. or State Volunteers, National Guard or in some Military School or College.

The salaries to be paid to the enlisted men are as follows: mounted men \$30.00, unmounted men \$25.00 per month, with an increase for non-commissioned officers. In addition to this salary are allowances for uniforms, subsistence, quarters, medical attendance and equipments.

Beside the foregoing conditions, each applicant will be required to undergo a physical examination before he is selected for appointment. It is expected that the Jamestown Exposition will have one of the most efficient organizations to guard its grounds that has ever been enlisted for previous expositions.

Cayce Camp No. 46 respectfully invite Elm Camp No. 3 and all Woodmen to attend and assist in unveiling a monument on Sunday, July 29th, at 3 p. m., at Cayce Cemetery, erected to the memory of the late Wm. H. Hall.

S. A. Johnson, Clerk.

A few days ago a rather bashful young woman went into a store carrying three chickens and at the same time put them on the counter. The clerk didn't know the chickens feet were tied, and asked if they would lay there. She bit her handkerchief and said: "No, sir; they are roosters."

Hickman Defeated by Huntingdon Baseball Team.

The Hickman Baseball team, whose reputation of last year was second to none among the Amateur leagues of this section, took a decided slump, in both last week's games with Huntingdon, being badly defeated on the home diamond.

Huntingdon has a strictly first class team of all home players and put up a good stiff game of the proper article. Both players and their manager, Jack Jolly, merit much praise in the support of such a pleasing combination of gentlemanliness and good athletics.

The home boys did their best to carry off part of the honors but without success. This team is composed of the cream of Kentucky, as gentlemen, but rather inferior as ball-players.

We do not intend knocking on our own boys, but they need practice and much of it, if the city intends supporting a team. There is splendid material right here in the limits of this fair city, but there are two things that are necessary to a successful ball team, first choose the right players, then, practice them.

Mr. Roney has done all in his power to give the citizens the "proper stuff" on the diamond, but he needs support from every citizen at all times.

Organize a team of strictly local players, then give them support and it will succeed, but not otherwise.

The scores of the two games were 13 to 3 and 10 to 0 respectively, in Thursday's and Friday's games, in favor of Huntingdon.

New Swindle Being Worked in Rural Districts.

An exchange gives the following warning to the farmers against a swindle which is being worked in the rural districts:

A new swindler is abroad in the land. The swindler sells barbed wire fencing stretching machines. He leaves the machine and 40 rods of good fencing wire on trial, requiring the farmer to sign for the return of the stretcher. The farmer signs for \$3, which, of course, turns up at the bank for \$300 instead. He may not turn up in Fulton county, but it would be just as well for our farmers to be on the look out for him, just the same.

Ceremonies at Memphis in Honor of Forest.

An enthusiastic crowd gathered in Court Square Friday afternoon of last week to honor the memory of the great war leader, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest the anniversary of whose birthday was the occasion of the celebration. Old gray veterans surrounded by the bright, winsome faces of the Daughters of the Confederacy, were the center of attraction at the band stand, where the exercises took place, the military aspect of the occasion being heightened by the presence of a company of armed and uniformed veterans and a company of the local militia.

Albert Snow a young man of Wingo was arrested Friday and brought here by deputy sheriff R. B. Wallace, on an indictment charging him with furnishing liquor to a minor. Snow furnished bond and was released until circuit court.—Mayneld Messenger.

Mr. Tom Holcombe, of Greenville, Miss., is at home this week on a short vacation. Tommy, as he is familiarly known to his old associates, has met with great success in the drug business, at Greenville. Friends and relatives of this promising Fulton county young man are justly proud of him.